



Reid-Kennedy's Amnesty Provisions = A Rubber Stamp for Terrorists

World Trade Center Bomber Received Amnesty in '86

A series of recent House hearings on border security have shown that the Reid-Kennedy immigration bill would repeat the mistakes of the 1986 Immigration Control Reform Act (ICRA).

This week, [The Washington Post reported](#) that, "Of the nearly 12 million illegal immigrants living in the United States, about 10 million may register to apply for legalization if the Senate plan passes... That could overwhelm the U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, which last year granted permanent residency to 1.1 million people and awarded temporary worker visas to 200,000."

On Thursday, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims will hold a hearing on ["Whether Attempted Implementation of the Senate Immigration Bill Will Result in an Administrative and National Security Nightmare."](#)

The result will almost certainly be the same as 1986 – when the overburdened system began to rubberstamp applications, without the required background checks. This opens the door for terrorists to take advantage of the system and obtain legal status.

It has happened before. In the wake of ICRA, Mahmud Abouhalima, an Egyptian illegal immigrant, obtained amnesty as an agricultural worker – even though he was a New York City taxi driver who never worked on a farm. With his status legalized, Abouhalima was able to travel overseas where he was trained as a terrorist. He returned to the United States and took part in the first World Trade Center bombing.

(202) 226-9000